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Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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---------- 109474
R 150708Z OCT 75
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2633
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

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FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJ: BANGEMANN ON THIN ICE WITH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP

REF:; BONN 16282, 16360

1. SUMMARY: FDP LAND CHAIRMAN MARTIN BANGMANN FACING TOUGH FIGHT FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG NTER OCTOBER 4 RESIGNATION AS FDP FEDERAL SECRETARY GENERAL. PARTY CENTRAL "STEERING COMMITTEE" (LANDESHAUPTAUSSCHUSS) IN OCTOBER 11 MEETING REFUSED VOTE ON BANGEMANN-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL DEALING WITH LAND COALITION POSSIBILITIES. MOTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO LAND CONVENTION NOVEMBER 8-9. DEPUTY LAND CHAIRMAN ENDERLEIN AND FORMER LAND CHAIRMAN FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRE-
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TARY MOR CH LEADING VIGOROUS OPPOSITION TO BANGEMANN. BANGE-

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MANN LIKELH TO BE FACING ROUGHER RATHER THAN EASIER GOING IN COMING MONTHS WITH HIS IMMEDIATE POLITICAL FUTURE ON THE LINE. END SUMMARY.

2. OVDEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP CENTRAL STEERING COMMITTEE (LANDESHAUPTAUSSCHUSS) MET OCTOBER 10-11 IN PFORZHEIM. SUCH MEETINGS NORMALLY CLOSED BUT OUTSIDERS PERMITTED ATTEND SOME SESSIONS. COMMITTEE REFUSED VOTE ON MOTION SUBMITTED BY DEPUTY LAND CHAIRMAN KLAUS ROESCH AND CLOSE FRIEND AND SUPPORTER BANGEMANN. PROPOSAL OUTLINED FDP CONDITIONS FOR COALITION ND CONCLUDED FDP WILLING ENTER TALKS WITH CDU AND SPD FOLLOWING APRIL 4 LANDTAG ELECTIONS, UNLESS ONE PARTY WINS CLEAR MAJOR-ITY. BANGEMANN/ROSCH MOTION GENERATED HEATED INCONCLISIVE DEBATE AND POSTPONED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FULL PARTY CONVEN-

TION IN CONSTANCE NOVEMBER 8-9.

3. DEPUTY LAND CHAIRMAN HINRICH ENDERLEIN LED OPPOSITION TO BANGEMANN/ROESCH PROPOSAL. ENDERLEIN SUPPORTED BY YOUNG EMO-CRATS. FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY AND FORMER FDP LAND CHAIRMAN KARL MOERSCH ALSO IN VANGUARD OF OPPOSITION. BANGE-MANN-MOERSCH ROLES NOW REVERSED FROM ALMOST TWO HEARS AGO WHEN BANGEMANN PRESSURE CAUSED MOERSCH TO LOSE BADEN-WUERT-TEMBERG PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP.

4. COMMENT: WHILE COALITION POSSIBILITIES PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY ROESCH FOR TACTICAL REASONS, BANGMANN'S REPUTATION CLRLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN ITS FAILURE TO WIN HPROVAL. WHETHER PRO-POSAL IS ACCEPTED AT NOVEMBER CONSTANCE MEETING IS OPEN QUES-TION. NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR BANGEMANN WHOSE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL FUTURE WILL BE AT STAKE, AND HE WILL HAVE TO BOLSTER WHATEVER CONTROL AND INFLUENCE HE STILL HAS IN LAND FDP. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PRDICT WHETHER EVENTS WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO BANGEMANN RESIGNATION AS LAND CHAIRMAN SINCE HE IS GENALLH REGARDED TO BE POLITICALLY THICK-SKINNED. ONE FACTOR IN HIS NVOR IS THAT FDP MAY SOON RALIZE THAT IT CANN ILL-AFFORD CONTINUED BICKERING IN FACE OF IMPOR-TANT LANDTAG AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN COMING YEAR. LAND FDP WILL HAVE TO WORK HARDER AT ESTABLISHING CLEAR AND SEPARATE POLITICAL PROFILE IF IT HOPES HAVE REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS
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WITH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG VOTERS. IF BANGEMANN HANGS ON UNT L HIS TERM ENDS IN JANUARY 1977, HIS POLITICAL FUTURE WILL BE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE FDP'S PRFORMANCE IN ELECTIONS. AT ANY RATE, PERSONAL OPPOSITION TO BANGEMANN NOT LIKELY TO MISS OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY TO CUT SHORT HIS PROMISING POLITICAL CAREER. JENKINS

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